

February 21, 2012

#### NOTICE TO THE TRADE

### 2012 ANNUAL INDUSTRY CONFERENCE FOR CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS IN USDA'S COMMODITY PURCHASE PROGRAMS

The Commodity Procurement Division of the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) invites all contractors and commodity suppliers to participate in its annual conference to discuss the AMS Commodity Purchase and Distribution Program.

This year's conference will include two days with the first all-day session covering procurement/contracting issues and topics. The second day includes breakout sessions for each industry group where the agenda will include commodity-specific matters. Topics involved are the Division's reorganization and direction, program changes, including new contracting methods and timelines, as well as updates from other agencies involved in Commodity Procurement Programs. In addition, updates and lessons learned regarding Web-Based Supply Chain Management, which was fully implemented in 2011, will also be discussed. We invite you to submit any questions or comments you would like addressed using the attached registration form.

The dates and location of the conference are:

When:

Thursday, April 19

Friday, April 20

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Where:

Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center

201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, Maryland 20745

A block of rooms for the conference has been reserved at the rate of \$224 per room under the event name: Commodity Procurement Industry Meeting. Participants must make their own lodging arrangements using the link provided below or calling the Gaylord Hotel (301-965-4000) using the group code **X-CPI12**, with reservations available on a first come – first serve basis. This hotel rate will be available only until

March 19, 2012, or until the group block is sold out.

https://reservations.gaylordnational.gaylordhotels.com/cgi-bin/lansaweb?procfun+rn+resnet+NAT+funcparms+UP%28A2560%29:;x-cpi12;?&source=GN||GRP||GRP|||X-CPI12

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Pre-registration for the conference is required. Please return the attached form via e-mail or register online at <a href="www.ams.usda.gov/CommodityPurchasing">www.ams.usda.gov/CommodityPurchasing</a> (select "Notices and Press Releases" under the "What's New" section) by <a href="mailto:April 3, 2012">April 3, 2012</a>. If you would like additional information, please e-mail <a href="mailto:Ashley.Cox2@ams.usda.gov">Ashley.Cox2@ams.usda.gov</a> or call (202) 720-4476.

We value your participation and look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Douglas E. Keeler, Acting Director Commodity Procurement Division

### **REGISTRATION FORM**

# ANNUAL INDUSTRY CONFERENCE FOR CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS IN USDA'S COMMODITY PURCHASE PROGRAM THURSDAY, APRIL 19 - FRIDAY, APRIL 20

Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center

Location:

201 Waterfront Street National Harbor, Maryland 20745 will be represented by: (Company) Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Program\*: \_\_\_\_ Name: \*Commodity Program (LS, FV, or PY) If there are specific issues/topics you would like discussed at this meeting, please list those below:

E-mail the above information to Ashley.Cox2@ams.usda.gov